

## 2008 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: MD-8A North Fork

Report Date: 6/5/2009

*We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2008.*

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Type of water source(s) in use: One deep well drawing from water-bearing fractured rock

Name & location of source(s): Well #1 is located within the North Fork Maintenance District

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: A source water assessment was conducted for the North Fork well in April 2002. While no contaminants exceeding current MCLs were found, the assessment identified several areas with a potential for outside contamination. These include: above ground storage tanks, the hardware/lumber store, transportation corridors and road right of ways, other wells in the area, and the automobile repair shop. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the Madera County Environmental Health Department, by visiting the State's website, [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technicaldwp/source\\_info/source\\_index.thm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technicaldwp/source_info/source_index.thm), or by requesting a summary of the assessment from Environmental Health at (559) 675-7823.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday, except the fifth Tuesday of any month, at the Board of Supervisors Chambers: 200 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Madera.  
Visit the Count website, [www.madera-county.com/supervisors/agenda.html](http://www.madera-county.com/supervisors/agenda.html) for a copy of the agenda.

For more information, contact: Julio Padilla

Phone: (559) 675-7817

### **TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:**

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Variances and Exemptions:** Department permission to exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

**ND:** not detectable at testing limit

**ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

**ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

**ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

**pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink**, the USEPA and the state Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

**Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent.** The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

**TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA**

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria )	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a Mo.) 4	2	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In the Year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

**TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER**

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	5	<5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	5	<0.05	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

**TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS**

Chemical or Constituent	Sample	Level	Range of	MCL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
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(and reporting units)	Date	Detected	Detections		(MCLG)	
Sodium (ppm)	10/08	30	23.8 – 36.2	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	10/08	37.4	36.4 – 38.4	none	none	Generally found in ground & surface water

\*Any violation of an MCL or AL is marked with an asterisk. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

**TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Uranium (pCi/L)	5/06	1.8	1.8	20	.43	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10/08	12.7*	12.4 – 13	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	10/08	1	0.9 – 1	2	1	Erosion from natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Chromium (ppb)	10/08	4.35	1.9 – 6.8	15	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (ppm)	5/07	<2.0	<2.0	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

**TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chloride (ppm)	10/08	34.4	32.4 – 36.4	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Specific Conductance (micromhos)	5 & 10/08	152.5	0 – 240	900–1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	10/08	6.6	6.5 – 6.7	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	10/08	150	150	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (Units)	10/08	0.6	0.1 – 1.1	5	N/A	Soil runoff

**TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS**

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Boron (ppm)	5/03	.17	1	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

\*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

## Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

We are required by drinking water regulations to *monitor* your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are indicators of whether or not your drinking water meets all health standards.

The North Fork water system had two primary MCL violations for Total Coliform and Arsenic. You should be aware of the following information.

**Total Coliform MCL Violation:** Our water system failed the drinking water standard for total coliform during the months of October and November 2008. The cause of the presence of coliform could not be determined. We have increased the sampling, system flushing, and adopted improved disinfection procedures to ensure that this will not occur again. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

**Arsenic MCL Violation:** Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The source water for this system contains levels of arsenic higher than the EPA's MCL. These levels are due to leaching of natural deposits. While the arsenic level in your system did not change substantially over years past, on January 23, 2006, the federal standard was reduced from 50 to 10 ppb. The State of California has also adopted these standards.

In May, this district was notified the approval of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application that was submitted in 2008 to solve the water quality issues for this community. As further details become available, additional communications and community meetings will occur. Community participation is important as improvement plans, available options, and associated rates will be discussed. We expect this process to begin this fall.

We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please call our office if you have any questions. We will continue our efforts in finding the most reliable and cost-effective method in producing your water, and will work hard to provide the best available water to every tap. We ask that you, our customers, help us protect our water resources. Water is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our future.